

Only Two Weeks More of the Annual Xmas Special Sale

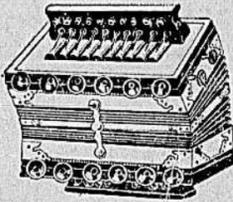
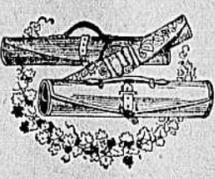
THE CABLE COMPANY—Our Name is Our Guarantee.

The arrival of four carloads of Pianos last Thursday enables us to offer even greater inducements for the next two weeks of this great SPECIAL SALE than we did last week. You know when you buy from The Cable Company that you will receive a dollar in value every time you spend the amount.

We have not the space to tell you about the merits of our goods, but you should remember that we carry what experience has proven to be the most satisfactory line of Pianos and Organs in every respect manufactured in the world. This is the secret of our success. Here's what you get this Christmas: Splendid Upright Pianos, of the latest designs and makes, perfect in tonal qualities, noted for durable qualities, superior in material and workmanship and at prices lower, by forty per cent. for the same value furnished, than any other house in Virginia, the South or anywhere else, other than The Cable Company's branches can offer. If this does not convince you then look at the stocks our competitors and then examine ours. We have the goods and can demonstrate what we say to be true.

PIANOS

MASON & HAMLIN,
CONOVER,
CABLE,
KINGSBURY,
WELLINGTON,
DEKOVEN.



MASON & HAMLIN,
CHICAGO COTTAGE

ORGANS

Talking Machine Department.



The Phonograph and Graphophone will furnish you with necessary music for dances. It will furnish satisfactory amusement for any festive gathering you may have. It educates you to appreciate music. Last—it is moderate in price.

Columbia Phonographs and Graphophones, Cylinder and Disc Records, \$3.50 to \$65. Charged if you wish it.

Gold-Moulded Phonograph Records, 25c Each. 10,000 new ones. Why pay more?

OPEN A CHARGE ACCOUNT. YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD HERE.

HOLIDAY BARGAINS:

Christmas Special.

Seventy full size UPRIGHT Pianos, new and guaranteed.

\$249.00.

Terms, \$2 Per Week. You Can't Resist This.

For \$150.00

CASH.

a limited number of elegant UPRIGHT Pianos as a special holiday inducement. Standard makes, fully guaranteed by this company.

Remember, there's only a limited number.

\$239.00

Christmas Special.

We offer nineteen UPRIGHT Pianos, elegant instruments of national reputation.

Terms, \$1.50 Per Week.

For \$289.00

For this price you can have your selection from one lot of sixteen large size Standard UPRIGHT Pianos—best make.

Terms, \$2.00 Per Week.

\$600 Value

For \$425.00

We have in stock at this time twelve elegant CONOVER Pianos, rented a short while, but practically new. These fine Pianos are included in this sale.

Don't Overlook Them.

BUY TO-DAY. WE'LL HOLD AND DELIVER CHRISTMAS.

THE CABLE COMPANY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

J. G. CORLEY, Manager.

Mansfield.

MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

24 Used Upright Pianos

received in exchange, to be sold for what they will bring.

Regular Price \$250 to \$600.

Selling Price \$125 up.

20 Square Pianos

will be sacrificed. We need the room they occupy.

\$5.00 to \$100.00

will give you your choice.

Terms, \$2.00 Per Month.

Sheet Music

All the latest popular hits.

Catalogue of 10c Music.

IT'S FREE.

Whims of the Idler

EDUCATION vs. SCHOOLMA'AMS.

Here's a chance to get famous by one fell swoop. Others have had their fling, and now your chance has come.

Organize a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to School Teachers and thousands of faded spirits will rise up in frouny petticoats and call you blessed.

Never has a wider field of philanthropy presented itself—never has a finer opportunity stuck itself under your very nose and begged to be grabbed. If I weren't married, and, therefore, kind of skittish about being an object of adoration with other women besides the one "who puts the buttons in my linen," I'd take hold

of the thing myself. But husbands must be cautious, and schoolma'ams, to say the least, are irresistible.

Within the last five years there has swept over the country, and especially over poor, and sometimes ungrammatical Dixie, a wave of enthusiasm about education—that is, other folk's education—which has set the population mad.

The fact that you yourself, with a sweet disregard for auxiliary verbs, cheerily say "I done it," instead of "I have done it," does not mean that a grammar is necessary in your case, but all the same, you are red hot for the younger genera-

tion to come out letter-perfect. Nothing in the way of mental blacksmithing according to your way of thinking, is too heavy for the present breed of brats. Give it to 'em good and hard, you say, in a spasm of pedagogic zeal.

And then, with a burst of magnanimity you announce that next week you will kindly deliver a public lecture on reforms in education and how the young idea may be trained to shoot—not with a Colt's revolver or a Winchester repeating rifle, as it would like to—but in a manner calculated to absorb all the wisdom in and out of encyclopedias.

It is fine and you get your name in the paper, and publishing houses send you prospectuses of encyclopedias, and the dearest of little arithmetics, and your course-minded, money-making friends grow respectful in your presence, and altogether you are amazed to find how important you are.

But unfortunately there is a certain ungrateful class which doesn't appreciate you in the least and which thinks you are a most unbecomingly bore.

This class happens to be the school teachers—the nerve-racked, brain-fagged, chalk-bearded, overworked, peevish school-teachers, who, by 3 P. M., are so pugnaciously weary and so slyly shrewdly fatigued that they could whip their weight in wild cats. Amiability, zeal for work, respectability to other people's ideas, and a general hunger for intellectual elevation, are marvellously brisk with most of us just after breakfast—especially if we have had good strong coffee and roe herrings—but the same virtues become a gray horse of another color along towards the frazzled-out end of the day's toil, when the desire for dinner is the one paramount emotion. If you don't believe me, ask the teachers.

And so, it is at that hour that you, if you're Titanic enough, undertake to speak your nuggety words of educational wisdom to the bedraggled queens of the wriggling, juvenile hosts. Or, maybe, if you yourself are not above such gross mundane weaknesses as the love for food, you deliver your soul-lifting discourse just after supper.

In short, you trot out the porcupine schoolma'ams at an hour above all others when the thing they most assuredly don't wish to think about is education.

The vocation by which one earns his bread may be gloriously amusing during business hours, but there is a limit to all things, and that limit, in the case of work, is like the Chinese wall. Or rather it would be like a Chinese wall if we had our way.

Fancy a lot of sweaty, grimy brick-layer, stopping after 5 P. M. to hear a shoe-maker deliver a lecture on how to lay bricks. Imagine how joyously—nay, exultantly—he would undertake to speak of death-lectured into froemies—advised to the point of desperation—criticized in a blunt instrument saves them from committing murder. And all out of school hours, too, when they'd like to be doing something to check incipient splendor or to snatch themselves from the hungry maw of celibacy.

But the didactic persecutors of hollow-eyed schoolma'ams do not stop with mere talking. One can listen to a vast lot of gloriously superfluous words and then forget them. The trouble, however, does not end here. Your pedagogic head, with its ideas put into execution—wants them

tried on the teachers, just as one tries gowns on rabbits or guinea pigs. For instance, Mr. So-and-so, the popular and now marvellously prosperous huckster, who has come to the front in behalf of education, takes it into his head, that drawing should be taught in all the public schools. That means that every blessed schoolma'am in the system—possibly on a day's notice—must develop into an artist and prove herself capable of transforming forty or more restless young Arabs into Raphael and Michael Angelo.

Perchance some of the class-room monarchs actually are artists and maybe the new order, though sudden, pleases them.

But, alas! hardly have they gotten a chance to exult in the one thing they really like before comes another order to teach music—an order emanating indirectly from a retired liverman. The fact that the teachers don't know a record from an octave makes no difference. Music they must teach. And at it they go like a duck on a "Juno-bug," plugging away as best they can.

Cross? Why they are like wet hens when they get home, and will peck at anything within fifty yards of 'em.

And really one can't blame them much. For to-day it's vertical writing that must be hammered into young America despite the fact that the instructors have been using another style of penmanship for years, and to-morrow it will be something else of an equally revolutionary nature. This session life examination system has been abolished and a new way of keeping reports adopted. Next session the hours of pupils may be shortened and the hours of teachers made longer.

At any rate, no matter how the pedagogic cat jumps, the amiable schoolma'am must sheathe her retractile claws and abstain from scratching. She must be good, even though she is not. For twenty hours a day, and lectured at the other four hours. This was in the halcyon days of my own patched breeches boyhood, for instance—when it was the teacher's business to lecture and give advice. But, alas! things changed all that. Now the schoolma'am must be a listener—a hard thing for any woman to be, and most cruelly hard for a teacher.

Worse still she must work overtime with no extra scale for extra labor. Her present—and this, apparently immutably fixed compensation—is something like \$10 a week and oodles of dainty advice supposed to be worth \$1,000 a minute by those bestowing it. Unfortunately, too, advice (next to ass-fodder capsules) is the hardest thing on earth to swallow.

But the schoolma'am must do her best to gulp at the intellectual doses concocted for her. The age requires it. She is living in a formative period, and must pay the penalty. Perhaps in conformity with the law of all things, she is being allowed itself to be the verbal target for the sex which left the garden of Eden with the gift of gab.

And as for the "chillians"—the innocent cause of all this lightly tempered-goodness knows what's to become of them.

Engraved Cards.

50 cards with plate, 70c; regular price \$1.00. Our engraving charges are 20 per cent. below others. THE WORK-BEST. SOUTHERN STAMP & STATIONERY CO., Twelfth & Main St.

If they absorb all the education that's being put in soak for them, they'll have to wear washbats for hats by the time they become adults, and have their brains braced up with iron girders like a building that has gotten top-heavy. Maybe, too, the young students will soon be willing to send their parents to kindergarten.

And yet I rejoice to say that the thirteen in my establishment are strangely alike with the used to be in the youth, and will cheerfully chop wood or dig dirt rather than erupt their minds with vulgar fractions or the eccentricities of irregular verbs. But, unlike their Pa, they can never quite understand why their teachers are sometimes snappish and ferociously impatient, and why these same teachers seem opposed to giving them a second's rest.

The nearer I approach the end of this spinning reel for existence, the more I thank my stars that I am neither a schoolma'am nor a schoolma'am's pupil. As between being worked to death and talked to death, it is hard to say where one's choice should lie.



THE TEXAS WAY.

Gambling Dens of El Paso Closed Officially and With Politeness.

A moral wave has swept over all the principal cities of Texas in the last few months, and as a result gambling is a thing of the past in some of these places. It is in San Antonio and El Paso, the two remaining wide open towns of the state, that the full force of this wave has been felt.

In El Paso the crusade against gambling was taken up by the moral and religious element, and petitions to close the gambling houses were presented to J. H. Boone, sheriff of El Paso county, by a delegation of prominent citizens.

Sheriff Boone sent a notice to each game-breeder telling him that he must get out of business on a certain day at a certain hour. He followed up these individual notices with a general proclamation which was published in the principal newspapers of El Paso, as follows:

"To the Public: Leave your pistols at home unless you have commissions to carry them. Carrying concealed weapons is in violation of the law. You might get caught, and excuses will not pay the fine."

"Slide door entries and back way sneaks may get you into trouble. There is a strong force of men watching you. Don't fail to post yourselves on what are the violations of the law. The law applies to all places in El Paso county as well as in the city. Take my advice and be on the safe side. It will be too late after you are caught."

"These warnings will soon cease, and then we will do business strictly."

J. H. BOONE, Sheriff of El Paso County. The hour for final closing was fixed at 3 A. M. All night long crowds filled every gambling place in the city. Men fought for places at the tables. Men who had never staked a dollar before in their lives did in the games just for the sport of it. When the hour of 3 A. M. arrived all

games were stopped, doors were closed, and the reign of gamblers in El Paso was at an end.

"Some friends of mine," observed the lady, "know your brother. I believe he is very well to do, is he not?"

"On the contrary," replied Mr. Ver Beck, sadly, "he is very hard to do. I asked him to lend me \$5 last week, and he had the impertinence to say that when I returned the five I borrowed last summer, perhaps he would think of letting me have this one."

The Well-to-Do Brother.

Frank Ver Beck, the illustrator, has a brother who is a very successful business man, says the Saturday Evening Post.

Among a party of visitors to Mr. Ver Beck's studio, one day recently, was a lady who met him for the first time. In the course of the conversation one

of the callers made a reference to this brother.

"Some friends of mine," observed the lady, "know your brother. I believe he is very well to do, is he not?"

"On the contrary," replied Mr. Ver Beck, sadly, "he is very hard to do. I asked him to lend me \$5 last week, and he had the impertinence to say that when I returned the five I borrowed last summer, perhaps he would think of letting me have this one."

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

By SYDNOR & HUNDLEY.

We have put on our thinking cap for your benefit. Any of the following articles would make an

Acceptable and Wise Christmas Gift.

- CHINA CASES, Oak and Mahogany.
- SIDEBOARDS, Oak and Mahogany.
- EXTENSION TABLES, Oak and Mahogany.
- BEDROOM SUIT, Any Wood.
- PARLOR SUIT, Every Good Style.
- LIBRARY SUITS and odd chairs.

- Couches, in variety; Box Couches a specialty.
- Hall Racks, Hall Mirrors and Settees.
- In Choice Rocking Chairs, their name is legions.
- Turkish Rockers and Sleeping Hollow Chairs by the score.
- Cellarettes, Music Stands, Shaving Stands.

And as You Must Know We Always Excel in Morris Chairs and Ladies' Desks.

SYDNOR & HUNDLEY, LEADERS,

709-711-713 East Broad Street.

One Dollar an Ounce for Sterling Silverware

Rather astonishing, isn't it? This silverware is .925 fine, too. It is this way: We bought a large quantity of certain patterns of solid Silver Forks and Spoons. By sharing our bargain with you and having a little of our ordinary modest profit, we can sell these particular patterns—there are five of them—at \$1 an ounce. It gives you a heavy set of teaspoons for \$4, and so on. Come and see them.

Gold Rings \$1.50.

We have over a hundred Solid Gold Rings for misses. They are all the different fashionable settings. Many cost as much or more than our price; you can take your pick at \$1.50.

Lady's Gold Watch \$25.

These Watches are Elgin or Waltham movement and have extra heavy cases of 14-Kt gold—we won't handle the thin case Watches. We are watch inspectors for several railroads and handling such a large quantity of watches gives us big opportunities to save you money. We guarantee this the best watch value in Richmond.

Novalty Brooches \$1.25.

These are Crescent and French Knots. A remarkable value, but no better than scores of others we have.

Toilet Set \$12.

This particular Toilet Set, consisting of mirror, comb and brush, is sterling silver, very massive looking, a new pattern in the French gray. This is a sample of scores of other Toilet Sets, \$2.50.

Sterling Match Safes, \$1.50.

Sterling Silver Rattles, \$2.50, and so for the rest.

Seth Thomas Clocks.

Ask any expert who makes the finest Clocks and he will say Seth Thomas. We handle no other. We can give you a beauty in imitation marble, cathedral gong and half-hour strike, for \$5.50.

J. J. Allen & Co.,

Jewellers, 14th and Main Streets.